

Pastoral Planning
The Cathedral Parish of the Immaculate Conception
September 2021-2026

Encountering Christ in word, sacrament, and each other, we serve to create hope and peace for our community and world. (Mission Statement)

Liturgical Formation: We will strive to celebrate well the Eucharist making it the center of our parish life, inviting full participation and opening our doors to all who want to take advantage of God's forgiving love.

- Seek a greater number of lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and ushers. **(Sr. Linda)**
- Encourage more participation in music ministry. **(Denise Diaz & Nelly Ortiz)**
- Have ushers wear blue suit coats/jackets with name pins **(JF)**
- Form a hospitality group that welcomes visitors and presents them with a packet of information about our parish and its ministries. **(Sr. Linda)**

Faith Formation: We will encourage the ongoing faith development for our youth and adults.

- Build and sustain our religious education program for our children. **(Sr. Linda)**
- Assess the wants and needs of parishioners yearly for program offerings through a small questionnaire in the Sunday bulletin each August. **(JF)**
- Assess the need for an outreach to "young adults." **(Mariannie Zayas)**
- Continue to offer Advent and Lenten programs on site and online as well as special occasions through live streaming on YouTube or interactive sessions using Zoom. **(JF)**
- Make available for modest offering "The Word Among Us" and other spiritual materials **(Mariannie Zayas)**

Communal Formation: We will gather throughout the year to enjoy fellowship and welcome others to our community.

- Be accountable: parish census, Mass counts every other month, assess parish functions and outreach initiatives yearly. Communicate prudently & increase participation through Flocknotes. **(Mariannie & Aga)**
- Develop a fall and spring get together. **(Jonathan Latko & Pastoral Council)**
- Set priority on invitation especially to the young while not neglecting the seasoned members of the community. Assess the need for re-establishing groups such as Hijos (hijas) de María, Caballeros de Cristo and the Cursillo retreats. **(Mariannie Zayas)**
(Cursillo retreats: Ely & Petra Mateo)
- Challenge parishioners to grow (personally and communally), to integrate faith and life. **(JF)**

Multicultural Formation: We will celebrate our diversity as we share our Anglo, Latino, Polish, Filipino and African heritages

- Fall multicultural celebration married to a spiritual convocation/retreat. **(JF working with Pastoral Council)**
- Use different cultural festivities as teaching moments (Altagracia, Providencia, Guadalupe, Santo Niño, La Divina Infantita de María) **(Mariannie Zayas)**

Service Formation: We will aim to address the needs of our parishioners, as well as those in our community.

- Continue offering English learning classes if needed. Publicize classes at Sisters of St. Joseph Welcome Center in east Camden.
- Be Good Neighbors: Find new ways to feed and clothe the homeless. Provide the dinner meal, a snack and sandwich for Joseph House every third Wednesday of the month. **(in process)**

Outreach Ministry: We will be faithful to our parishioners (and seniors) who are homebound, hospitalized, ill or dying and those who feel forgotten and/or unwanted.

- Establish and update Excel spreadsheet of homebound with representatives responsible for visits, communion, ashes and the like. Livestream Masses and other special events. **(Mariannie Zayas)**
- Coordinate with VITALity Health Care Services and Catholic Charities regarding specific needs of parishioners. **(JF)** Continue to partner with Rutgers-Camden nursing program with respect to the Fall Health Fair. **(JF with Mike Morgan)** Establish the Journey of Hope program in the parish for cancer patients and their loved ones. **(Daniel Diaz & Elva Vazquez)**
- Keep fresh the parish website that includes a prayer list. **(JF)**
- Establish a bereavement ministry. (Stephen Ministry) **(Sr. Claire, Lucy Alicea, two members from SJP Apostolate)**
- Reach out to families affected by divorce/separation.
- Reach out to those with same-sex attraction and/or the LGBTQ community and their family members as well. **(JF)**

Evangelization Ministry: We will continue to reach out to those on the periphery and those who need to be “welcomed back.”

- Fuller participation in various second collections. **(parishioners)**
- Seek outside partnerships (Faith in Camden County, Faith in South Jersey) **(JF)**
- Pastor participation in monthly Zoom sessions with Camden County Chief of Police and clergy of different faiths from the city. **(JF)**
- Seek ways to evangelize through Technology & Social Media

Stewardship Ministry: We will seek new ways to grow the financial stability of the parish, as well as to maintain a safe and welcoming facility.

- Establish a yearly fundraiser **(Finance Committee)**
- Have a spring get together that serves as a community social and fundraiser **(Pastoral Council)**

- Encourage participation in ordinary giving, special second collections, House of Charity campaign and other charitable outreach initiatives (baby bottle campaign, diaper collection, Rice Bowl, contributions to Joseph House meal ministry, blanket collection, etc.) **(in process needs cooperation by parishioners) (House of Charity Team takes care of Bishop's Annual Appeal)**
- Continue sound stewardship of the buildings especially preventative maintenance. **(Bob Cavanaugh, Victor Román, JF)**

The above plan incorporates the recommendations from the V Encuentro Process and the EasteR Project from Convocation of Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel.